

COALITION OF CONNECTICUT SPORTSMEN

P.O. Box 2506, Hartford, CT 06146, (203) 245-8076

www.ctsportsmen.com

ccsct@comcast.net

Testimony presented to the **PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE**

IN OPPOSITION TO Proposed H.B. No. 5800 AN ACT REQUIRING REGISTRATION OF ALL FIREARMS.

by Robert T. Crook, Director

02/10/11

Opposition to the content of this bill should be expected from gunowners, collectors, hunters, firearm retailers, and others in the public. The word "Firearm" is used throughout, and although not specifically stated, the bill only addresses long guns (rifles and shotguns). All handguns, machine guns and so-called "Assault Weapons" are currently registered. This legislature has considered and rejected long gun registration in the past.

We recognize that this bill originates in New Haven where shootings/murders are a near daily occurrence and committed with the weapon of choice of criminals and gang bangers – the handgun. Why then attack owners of long guns? How often are long guns used in crime? Rarely! What then is the benefit, contributing to public safety, should this bill pass?

It is estimated that approximately 25% of CT citizens own 1 or more firearms and the preponderance is long guns. We assume the CSP will be the implementers. What is the cost to the state in time, manpower, enforcement, and again to what benefit? In our opinion, the bill promotes a waste of law enforcement assets and is a bureaucratic imposition on the public without reasoned cause. You will certainly hear "Registration is the prelude to confiscation" which can be demonstrated by actions in California, Great Britain, Australia and others.

CSP is not adequately staffed or equipped to manage this procedure. If the '93 "Assault Weapons" ban which required registration is an indicator, CSP lacks the communications ability to notify the public of requirements and procedures. Many were unaware of restrictions and responsibilities resulting in the preponderance of arrests, and continuing, being unaware law-abiding citizens. CSP communications with the public has improved little and a similar result should be expected. CSP has failed to maintain the firearms data base they currently require as evidenced by over 10,000 missing registration forms in 2009.

With well over 100 CT laws governing firearms, almost all felonies, should we expect this to add to the felony roster?

There appears to be NO justification for this onerous bureaucratic bill. You will see no relevant documentation as to need. Clearly criminals will not register. This is just another politically misdirected attempt to solve a big city drug and crime problem and will only impact, delegitimize, and criminalize the law abiding gun owning public.

We strongly urge rejection.